Letters to the Editor

Dignity Lacking

As part of a planned project for a young people's group we brought a number of high school boys and girls to an evening sitting of the B.C. Legislature.

I regret very much that we exposed these young people to such a display of bad manners and to such an appalling exhibition of how the country's business is transacted as we saw that evening. Speakers were not given courteous hearing; members were chatting with one another with complete disregard to what was being said, in spite of the fact that there were several matters of vital concern being put forth; notes were being delivered; members trotting in and out.

To me the whole thing was a farce. It lacked dignity that one expects from members of parliament. One could but think of a slapstick comedy. It is indeed high time that "politics" were given a complete overhauling and thinking people should see to it that it is done.

(MRS.) E. M. TAYLOR.

P.O. Box 671, Duncan.

Divergent Treatment

I have been reading about the demands for an increase for the Gorge Road Hospital in your paper for several days past, and see that the ratepayers will have to subsidize up to $185 for welfare cases until such times as the government grants the increase; regardless of the fact that this institution is being subsidized by the government and by the public in general, through teas, garden parties, tag days and the women's auxiliary. I may add that the building and grounds are exempt from all city taxes and free from the five per cent hospital insurance tax on their supplies . . .

I have operated a rest home, licensed under the Welfare Institutional Licensing Act, since 1950. During that time we have been granted one increase of $10 in the basic rate from $65 to $75, and up to $95 for persons needing more care for welfare cases. Regardless of the small increase, the city has increased my taxes 35 per cent since 1950 up to 1958, and 80 per cent for 1959, 25 per cent of that amount for business tax because of the welfare licence

The city allows private homes to take in up to four aged people without having to take out a welfare licence, or bring their places up to standard to care for them. These homes are assessed as single dwellings, besides receiving the $28 deduction. In my possession, I have a list of approximately 50 of such places, some of them charging as high as $150 per month. In my estimation, the licensed home operators are being penalized. I consider it very unfair, as the aged women's home and the aged men's home have their taxes subsidized by the city.

I understand that the Aged Men's Home is being operated by the city at a rate of $100 per month per person, also subsidized by the city.

In all fairness to the ratepayers and other licensed institutions, a yearly financial statement should be published to inform the public as to how the money is being spent.

MARY E. BRISBIN,
President of the Rest Home Ass'n, Vancouver Island.

Church Organ

I am writing to correct a wrong impression which would be gained from the write-up of the annual meeting of the Diocesan W.A. of the Anglican Church.

The particular item refers to the fact that a grant from the diocesan board purchased the new organ in St. Peter's Church, Comox. This was by no means the case. The board contributed $200 towards the $2,700 organ. The remaining $2,500 was raised by the people of St. Peter's.

All arrangements for the purchase of the organ and its installation were during my incumbency of that parish —which is my reason for bringing this error to your notice.

ANGUS CAMERON OF LUNDAVRA.

1737 Fairfield Road.

Sinister Sicilian Brotherhood

Is There Really a Mafia?

By H. D. QUIGG
(United Press International)

Does a strange, exclusive, somewhat mystical brotherhood of crime, born in Sicily two centuries ago, now rule the underworld of America? Is there a Mafia?

Some responsible law officials say there simply is no such thing. Others are positive there is. They say it controls important segments of rackets and legitimate businesses, with a yearly illegal take of several billion dollars.

A recent book undertakes to prove the Mafia's existence. It asserts that the brotherhood is mainly responsible for, and gets its greatest single income from, America's "terrible social cancer," the illicit narcotics trade. It adds that this trade "may be the fashioning of the Mafia's eventual doom through an outraged public opinion."

The book is "Brotherhood of Evil," by Frederic Sondern, Jr. In a preface to the book, Harry J. Anslinger, commissioner of the treasury department bureau of narcotics, asserts that the Mafiosi—members of the Mafia — are the core of the U.S. army of organized crime: "Like the Communists they have discipline, cohesion, and a philosophy."

Sondern closes with a statement made by Sen. John McClellan before his rackets committee: "The criminal syndicate which we have identified here as the Mafia has revealed an arrogant challenge to the government and to the decent people of this country."

Studding his volume with the records and methods of many such spectacular names as Adonis, Luciano and Anastasia, Sondern undertakes to show an axis of "organized skullduggery" from the Middle East, through the Mediterranean and Italy, to the United States.

This "strange combine of Sicilian families," Sondern writes, has probably about 1,000 important members, held together by the "dons," the brotherhood's elders who act as area co-ordinators. He says there is no president, no formal roster, no initiation, no oath—only a loosely-knit association of families with a solid tradition.

* * *

Al Capone, the post-prohibition Chicago gang overlord, laid the foundation for the Mafia's "virtual control of the American underworld today," according to Sondern. He says Capone taught them the value of nationwide co-operation within the brotherhood.

Although Capone sat in on the Mafia's councils, and was accepted as the boss, he never could attain full status as a member because he was not Sicilian, Sondern writes. "Scarface Al" was born in Naples.

The book asserts that one of the greatest blows in the history of the organization was the discovery and pulicizing of the "grand council" meeting of the Mafia on Nov. 14, 1957, near Apalachin, N.Y.

More than 60 members, he says, had gathered in solemn convention to renew unity after several recent assassinations within the ranks and to draw stricter lines of jurisdiction in the narcotics, gambling, and labor fields.

* * *

AL CAPONE
. . . no Sicilian

Sondern gives full and detailed credit to the detective work of Sgt. Edgar Croswell of the New York State Police in uncovering the meeting.

At a press conference Sondern said that what impressed him most about Mafia members he had met after their arrest was "their utter lack of a feeling of guilt." Asked if he had any fear of personal reprisal against him for writing such a book, he said: "No, they don't operate that way — anyway, it's a risk we've got to take."

SYNGMAN RHEE
. . . clutching reins

* * *

Syngman Rhee Clamps Down

Korean Democracy in Danger

By NATE POLOWETZKY
(Associated Press)

Some old and firm friends of Korea are concerned about the future of democracy in the young republic.

They are worried that parliamentary government and the two-party system are endangered.

On the one hand they are concerned that President Syngman Rhee's Liberal party—despite constant denials—might try to remain in power by a campaign of harassment and attrition against opposition newspapers and politicians in an effort to silence them.

On the other hand, they are worried that these tactics might stir such resentment among the opposition and the public that they will lose faith in democratic procedures.

* * *

Some Western elements are known to regard the recent passage of the new national security law as a step backward in Korea's democratic development.

The opposition cleams—and Western embassies fear—that the law gives the Liberal party, using the national policy, the weapon to end freedom of the press, deny human rights, and kill political opposition under the guise of combatting communism.

Rhee has steadfastly denied that it ever would be used for this purpose—although many neutral observers feel the 83-year-old president isn't always fully informed by his advisers of what is going on in the country.

The new security law broadens the powers of police to investigate and arrest. It permits the banning of assemblies and authorizes the prosecution and imprisonment of journalists for contemptuous criticism of the president, the assembly speaker or the chief justice. It also provides prison terms for persons circulating false information.

The election of mayors and other local officials has already been cancelled by law. Instead, they will in effect be picked by the government. The opposition says this is aimed at keeping anti-Liberal candidates out of office.

Terms of rural and town officers have been extended an extra year by government order. The opposition says this is aimed at keeping them in control of municipalities during next year's presidential elections.

* * *

Western observers say they feel the national security law, as passed, can have only one purpose: To make sure Rhee and the Liberals win the 1960 presidential balloting.

There have been arrests of employees of opposition newspapers. Some Korean journalists say that reporters covering the National Assembly have either been forced to quit their jobs by police action or to ask transfer to less-important assignments.

Talks with many Seoul newspaper men disclose a deep fear—at least among opposition journalists — that the security law, and other existing laws aimed at rooting out Communist subversion, place them in jeopardy.

Giant Radio Telescope Near Penticton

New Ear to the Universe

A massive electronic ear is being installed 15 miles south of Penticton in the B.C. Interior to listen to the voices of the universe.

It is a radio telescope, an 84-foot dish which can take the pulse of space. When dust and cloud blind the eyes of optical telescopes, this ear will listen undisturbed.

Why? "Simply curiosity about our environment," says Dr. Jack Locke, who will head the six-man listening post when it is completed late this year.

"We're plugging away at the problem of what our universe consists of," said the 37-year-old astrophysicist.

With Col. Ernest Denison, chief of building and property management for the department of mines and technical surveys, Dr. Locke will supervise unloading of 25 freight-car-loads of his new baby—the White Lake telescope.

Two years ago Dr. Locke set up instruments at White Lake to take readings that ended a 12-month, Canada-wide search for the telescope's site.

The requirements were many. Dr. Locke, head of the Stellar Physics Division of the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa, sought a static-free bowl amid high mountains, far from high-tension power lines and high-powered radio transmitters.

The spot had to have light snowfall and dry air because moisture could short-circuit the instrument, and it had to be near a town where hard-to-find technicians could live contentedly.

Dr. Locke explains the radio telescope by giving a short course in radio astronomy.

"Radiation was discovered coming from space shortly before the war, but the phenomenon was largely ignored until after hostilities," he said.

"Advances in electronics during the war made it possible to check the source of this radiation and observers made a startling conclusion. Parts of the universe are acting as radio transmitters."

He said strength of these radio waves is not diminished by the vast dust clouds which clutter space and block light from segments of the sky. And a radio telescope can hear much farther than an optical telescope can see.

The $250,000 instrument was built in Cohasset, Mass., and shipped aboard 25 freight cars. It weighs 200 tons. Assembly of the telescope will begin in May and before testing is finished, it will be late summer.

Mounted on a 50-foot tower, a giant 84-foot parabolic dish will tune itself to the emissions from space, following the swing of the stars from horizon to horizon by day or night.

First problem the telescope and its technicians will tackle is determining the exact shape of the Milky Way.

"Why has it a spiral structure?" asks Dr. Locke. "What holds its arms together?"

Answering these and other questions will provide satisfaction to science, but no tangible results for some time, Dr. Locke said without apology.

"Pure research doesn't need any other object than to increase man's knowledge."

Joins Sales Staff of Printing Firm

H. V. PHILLIPS

Colonist Printers Ltd. and Colonist Lithographers Ltd. take pleasure in announcing that H. V. (Harry) Phillips has recently joined their sales staff. Mr. Phillips is well known locally through his connection with Island Engravers as commercial artist. His extensive background of experience in the commercial art field will be of great value in his new poosition. ***

'Sermon on the Mount'

Sound Psychiatry

Menningers Save Minds

By RALPH McGILL
(Editor, the Atlanta Constitution)

"I sometimes think there is enough psychiatry in 'the Sermon on the Mount' to solve many of the emotional disturbances of our time," said Dr. Will C. Menniger. "If people loved their neighbor just one-tenth as much as they do themselves they would then rid themselves of many of the hostilities which often give them so much trouble."

Doctors Will and Karl Menninger, of Topeka, have done more than any other two men in our time to stimulate the teaching and training of psychiatrists, and their use. Because of them the state of Kansas was able to bring itself from 47th in standards of mental care to a good solid first in a brief decade. Talking with them is an inspiration.

* * *

Slowly the states are being made to see the shame of their huge "warehouses" filled with mental patients who receive, perhaps, an average of 30 minutes of modern medical care a month.

Most of the nation's hospital beds are filled with mental patients. Yet there are fewer trained doctors and less money with which to cope with this problem.

Because in most states mental illness is regarded with a certain shame and is given as much concealment as possible, the public is not aware. Money in good amounts is raised to combat cancer, heart disease and polio. Yet, if we take about one-tenth of the amount raised for cancer, for example, we arrive at the average sum the states obtain for their mental health organizations.

* * *

In Kansas, after a revolution in attitudes, and methods of treatment, a mentally-disturbed patient goes to the hospital hopefully expecting to be cured. There is no shame, no sense of doom.

Seventy per cent of those who enter the Kansas state mental hospitals are released within three months. In the average state, entrance to the state hospital is like a sentence to life imprisonment.

* * *

Each year sees the problem mount.

Juvenile delinquency is certainly a form of emotional disturbance, stemming from multiple causes.

Alcoholism is by itself an emotional sickness. It, in turn, can produce disturbed children.

A surprising number of the larger corporations now finance their own psychiatric clinics, especially in the field of alcoholism. What strains, frustrations or loss of inner control drive valuable executives to begin hitting the bottle? To fire them is to lose all the investment in them and their abilities. About 75 per cent of them have been rehabilitated and "saved" for their jobs and families.

Pressure for conformity has always been a factor in human life. It grows worse as the industrial revolution produces larger concentrated populations, and more exacting demands for skills and management. The yearning to be sure to live in the right part of town, to belong to the right club, to have the sort of car that shows the owner's status, to go to the correct place for vacations and the urge, not so much to keep up with the Joneses as to stay ahead of them, are some of the aspects of the disease of conformity.

* * *

The fact that otherwise intelligent persons set up such priorities, or values, and on attaining them find them unrewarding, makes for much mental disturbance.

That is reaches children in school is not surprising. It is frightening.

What the public needs is to see the desperate need and to come to grips with it. But, tragically, the necessary catalyst isn't yet known.

Hispaniola Neighbors Tense

Caribbean Cold War

By MATT KENNY
United Press International

There is a cold war on in the Caribbean, too. There are two main, and distinct, areas of tension.

One centres about the Dominican Republic. Pitted against that nation's strongman, Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo, are his bitter political foes in Cuba and Venezuela and, to a lesser extent, Puerto Rico, who hope to end his 29-year "era of Trujillo."

The other involves Haiti, an overwhelmingly Negro nation and neighbor of the Dominican Republic on the island of Hispaniola.

Political opponents of President Francois Duvalier, in power only 16 months, are working in Cuba, the United States, and secretly inside Haiti itself to topple his government, which they call "dictatorial"—a charge he denies.

The Dominican Republic and Haiti themselves officially have good relations, having signed a non-intervention pact outlawing meddling in each other's affairs only last Dec. 22.

Both the Trujillo and Duvalier governments fear invasion attempts and have warned that their respective enemies are planning such a move.

During a just-completed tour of the area I found the consensus of informed opinion particularly concerned about the Dominican situation. There is apprehension in many quarters, including the Dominican government, about a blow-up between Trujillo and Fidel Castro in Cuba and President Romulo Betancourt in Venezuela.

Duvalier recently charged that Haitian exiles in Cuba are plotting an armed attack with at least the tacit approval of the Cuban government. Exile leaders deny this.

An invasion of Haiti by only eight men, five of whom were Americans, took place last summer and almost succeeded in overthrowing the government.

The opposition to Trujillo in Cuba and Venezuela is intense. But responsible quarters point out that the Trujillo regime is strong militarily. Unlike Haiti, the nation is in good economic condition. These two factors make attempts at revolution difficult at best.

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